

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANA 02301 180841Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 COME-00 ACDA-07 /078 W
-----180845Z 129244 /15

R 151400Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2301

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT, YE
SUBJECT: RECENT ARRESTS OF TERRORISTS

1. IN CONVERSATION ON JUNE 13, MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID TOLD ME THAT YARG SECURITY FORCES HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED OUT ARRESTS OF SEVERAL FORMER ARMY PERSONNEL ON CHARGES OF SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM. SAID SAID THAT THE INDIVIDUALS TRIED TO BLOW UP YARG AIR FORCE PLANES IN HODEIDAH AS WELL AS AUTOMOBILES OF YEMENI OFFICIALS HERE IN SANA. SAID WENT ON THAT THE MEN HAVE CONFESSED AND HAVE ADMITTED THEY WERE WORKING FOR MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB, BORTHER-IN-LAW OF SHAYKH ABDALLAH BIN HUSAYN AL-AHMAR. SAID COMMENTED THAT IT IS ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE CENTRAL REGIME NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE RING-LEADERS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AL-HAMDI IS STILL HOPING TO SETTLE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH THE NORTHERN SHAYKHS IN A PEACEFUL MANNER, THUS AVOIDING OPEN CONFRONTATION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. SAID OBSERVED THAT IN THIS REGARD HE AND OTHERS IN THE YEMENI REGIME CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SAUDIS COULD PUT PRESSURE ON AL-AHMAR TO RECONCILE HIMSELF WITH AL-HAMDI BUT THUS FAR NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DONE. SAID ADMITTED THAT THE SENIOR SAUDI LEADERSHIP

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IS FULLY SPPPORTING AL-HAMDI BUT HE WONDERED IF OTHER SAUDIS ARE FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL SAUDI LINE VIS-A-VIS AL-HAMDI AND YEMEN.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SEVERAL AUTOMOBILES WERE RECENTLY BLOWN UP HERE IN SANA. I AM AFRAID WE CAN EXPECT MORE OF THIS KIND OF SABOTAGE AND

TERRORISM OVER THE MONTHS AHEAD AS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT UNDER AL-HAMDI CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN ITS HOLD OVER THE COUNTRY THUS MAKING IT INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT DISSIDENTS FROM EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A POLITICAL COMEBACK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE, YEMENIS OF ALL CLASSES AND POSITIONS PERSIST IN THEIR BELIEF THAT SAUDI ARABIA COULD, IF IT WANTED, HELP THE CENTRAL REGIME MORE VIS-A-VIS THE NORTHERN SHAYKHS. ONE WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI'S MEETING WITH THE SAUDI LEADERSHIP IN EARLY JULY PRIOR TO HIS PARIS VISIT WILL FINALLY BRING SOME JOINT SAUDI/YEMENI SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, WHICH CONTINUES TO BEDEVIL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES.
SCOTES

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